

Basic information	
2021/0291(COD)	Procedure completed
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	
Radio Equipment Directive: common charger for electronic devices	
Amending Directive 2014/53 2012/0283(COD)	
Subject	
2.10.03 Standardisation, EC/EU standards and trade mark, certification, compliance 3.30.01 Audiovisual industry and services 3.30.04 Radiocommunications, broadcasting 3.40.06 Electronics, electrotechnical industries, ICT, robotics 4.20 Public health 4.60.08 Safety of products and services, product liability	
Legislative priorities	
Joint Declaration 2022	

Key players			
	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	AGIUS SALIBA Alex (S&D)	11/10/2021
		Shadow rapporteur KOVATCHEV Andrey (EPP) THUN UND HOHENSTEIN Róza (Renew) CAVAZZINI Anna (Greens /EFA) ZŁOTOWSKI Kosma (ECR) KONEČNÁ Kateřina (The Left)	
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	BRETON Thierry	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/09/2021	Legislative proposal published	COM(2021)0547 	Summary
04/10/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
20/04/2022	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
20/04/2022	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
27/04/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0129/2022	
02/05/2022	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)		
04/05/2022	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)		
12/07/2022	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE734.319 GEDA/A/(2022)004943	
04/10/2022	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0338/2022	Summary
04/10/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
04/10/2022	Debate in Parliament		
24/10/2022	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
23/11/2022	Final act signed		
07/12/2022	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/0291(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Amendments and repeals	Amending Directive 2014/53 2012/0283(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 114
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	IMCO/9/07216

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE702.975	11/01/2022	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE704.875	21/02/2022	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0129/2022	27/04/2022	
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE734.319	30/06/2022	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0338/2022	04/10/2022	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2022)004943	29/06/2022	
Draft final act	00044/2022/LEX	23/11/2022	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2021)0547 	17/09/2021	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2021)0318 	23/09/2021	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2021)0244 	23/09/2021	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2021)0245 	23/09/2021	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2021)0246 	23/09/2021	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2022)623	07/12/2022	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	COM(2021)0547	22/11/2021	
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	SWD(2021)0244	22/11/2021	
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	SWD(2021)0245	22/11/2021	
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	SWD(2021)0246	22/11/2021	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
EP Research Service	Briefing	29/11/2021

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure**Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs**

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
AGIUS SALIBA Alex	Rapporteur	IMCO	03/05/2022	Mr Zajíček, Ambassador (Czech Republic)
AGIUS SALIBA Alex	Rapporteur	IMCO	21/04/2022	CEN-CENELEC

Final act

Directive 2022/2380
OJ L 315 07.12.2022, p. 0030

[Summary](#)

Radio Equipment Directive: common charger for electronic devices

2021/0291(COD) - 17/09/2021 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to revise the Radio Equipment Directive with a view to proposing a universal charger for mobile phones and similar electronic devices.

PROPOSED ACT: Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: since 2009, there have been EU-wide efforts to limit the fragmentation of charging interfaces for mobile phones and similar items of radio equipment. Recent voluntary initiatives do not fully meet the EU's policy objectives to **reduce e-waste, ensure consumer convenience and avoid market fragmentation of charging devices**.

The lack of harmonisation in this area can lead to substantial differences between the Member States' laws, regulations, administrative provisions or practices on the interoperability of mobile phones and similar categories or classes of radio equipment with their charging devices, and on the supply of radio equipment without charging devices. In addition, there are several types of fast charging communication protocols for which a minimum level of performance is not always guaranteed.

Therefore, **EU action is needed** to promote a common level of interoperability and the provision of information to end-users on the charging characteristics of radio equipment.

In January 2020, the European Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) calling for the urgent adoption of a **standard for a universal charger for mobile phones** to avoid further fragmentation of the internal market.

Mobile phone chargers were estimated to account for around 11000 t of e-waste in 2018 and the associated life-cycle emissions were around 600 ktCO2e. The proposal would thus reduce e-waste generated by the sale of radio equipment as well as the extraction of raw materials and CO2 emissions related to the production, transport and disposal of chargers.

CONTENT: the proposal aims to introduce into [Directive 2014/53/EU](#) appropriate requirements regarding the charging communication protocols, the charging interface (i.e. charging receptacle) of certain categories or classes of radio equipment, as well as the information to be provided to end-users regarding the charging characteristics of those categories or classes of radio equipment.

Harmonised charging port for electronic equipment

The proposal requires that mobile phones and similar radio devices (tablets, digital cameras, headphones and headsets, handheld videogame consoles and portable speakers), that are recharged via a wired cable, be equipped with the **USB Type-C receptacle** and, if they also require charging at voltages higher than 5 volts or currents higher than 3 amperes or powers higher than 15 watts, incorporate the USB Power Delivery charging communication protocol.

The Commission may adopt delegated acts to take into account additional types of charging technologies other than wired charging in the future.

Harmonised fast charging technology

The proposal ensures that devices, when enabling fast charging, incorporate at least the same communication protocol for charging. This will help to ensure that the charging speed is the same when using any compatible charger for a device.

Supply of equipment without a charging device

The proposal introduces requirements to ensure that end-users are not obliged to buy a new charger when purchasing a new mobile phone or similar radio equipment.

Better information for consumers

When purchasing a mobile phone or similar radio equipment, end-users should be provided with the necessary information **on its charging characteristics and on the charging device that can be used**. This information should be indicated in printed form on the packaging or, if there is no packaging, on a label accompanying the radio equipment, provided that the label is visible.

This would allow consumers to determine the most appropriate external power supply for charging their radio equipment.

According to the Commission, all these measures would help consumers limit the number of new chargers purchased and save them around **EUR 250 million per year**.

Radio Equipment Directive: common charger for electronic devices

2021/0291(COD) - 07/12/2022 - Final act

PURPOSE: to revise the Radio Equipment Directive with a view to adopting measures for a universal charger for electronic devices (Universal Charger Directive).

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Directive (EU) 2022/2380 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 amending Directive 2014/53/EU on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of radio equipment.

CONTENT: the Directive provides that in 2024 **a USB-C charging port will become mandatory** for a range of electronic devices. As a result, most devices will be able to be charged from a common charger.

Categories of radio equipment

The new rules will apply to a wide range of portable devices **from 28 December 2024**:

- handheld mobile phones;

- tablets;

- digital cameras;

- headphones;

- headsets;

- handheld videogame consoles;

- portable speakers;

- e-readers;

- keyboards;

- mice;

- portable navigation systems;

- earbuds.

In addition, all **laptops** will also be affected by the new rules from **28 April 2026**.

Possibility for consumers to purchase certain categories or classes of radio equipment without a charging device

Where an economic operator offers to consumers and other end-users the possibility to acquire the radio equipment together with a charging device, the economic operator will also offer the consumers and other end-users the possibility of acquiring that radio equipment **without any charging device**.

Economic operators will ensure that the information on whether or not a charging device is included with the radio equipment is displayed in a graphic form using a user-friendly and easily accessible **pictogram** when such radio equipment is made available to consumers and other end-users. The pictogram will be printed on the packaging or affixed to the packaging as a sticker.

A dedicated **label** indicating the specifications relating to charging capabilities and compatible charging devices would enable consumers and other end-users to determine the most appropriate charging device needed to charge their radio equipment. The information on the specifications relating to the charging capabilities and the compatible charging devices should also be included in the instructions and safety information accompanying the radio equipment.

Harmonised fast charging technology

The Directive ensures that devices that ensure fast charging will now have the same communication protocol for charging. This will help to ensure that the charging speed is the same regardless of the compatible charger used with an appliance.

Market surveillance

Where the market surveillance authorities of a Member State have sufficient reason to believe that radio equipment covered by this Directive presents a risk to the health or safety of persons or that it does not comply with at least one of the applicable essential requirements, they will carry out an evaluation in relation to the radio equipment concerned. The relevant economic operators will cooperate as necessary with the market surveillance authorities for that purpose.

Unbundled sales

The Directive allows consumers to buy a new device with or without a charger. By 28 December 2026, the Commission will submit to the European Parliament and the Council a report on the impact of the possibility to acquire radio equipment without any charging device and without cables. This report will be accompanied, if appropriate, by a legislative proposal to amend this Directive to introduce mandatory unbundling of the sale of charging devices and cables from the sale of radio equipment.

Wireless charging

Wireless charging has not yet been harmonised between devices. In order to make this technology available for more devices, the Commission will work on the **harmonisation of wireless charging** for electronic devices as well as on interoperability, based on technological developments to improve consumer convenience, reduce environmental waste and avoid market fragmentation.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 27.12.2022.

TRANSPOSITION: no later than 28.12.2023. Provisions applicable from 28.12.2024 and 28.4.2026 depending on the category or class of radio equipment.

Radio Equipment Directive: common charger for electronic devices

2021/0291(COD) - 04/10/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 602 votes to 13, with 8 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2014/53/EU on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of radio equipment.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the Commission's proposal as follows:

Universal charger for mobile devices by 2024

The Directive provides that new mobile devices on the EU market must be equipped with a **USB-type C charging receptacle** by the end of 2024. This requirement should apply to all portable mobile phones, tablets, digital cameras, headphones and headsets, handheld video game consoles, portable speakers, e-readers, keyboards, computer mice, portable navigation systems, earbuds with a power delivery of 100 watts or less.

Within 40 months of the entry into force of the text, i.e. by 2026, this obligation should be extended to **laptops**.

Encouraging technological innovation

As wireless charging becomes more widespread, the European Commission will have to **harmonise interoperability requirements** by the end of 2024 to avoid negative consequences for consumers and the environment.

The Commission will have to request, no later than 24 months after the date of entry into force of the directive, one or more European standardisation organisations to develop **harmonised standards** setting out technical specifications for charging interface(s) and charging communication protocol(s) for radio equipment that can be charged by means other than wired charging.

Supply of equipment without a charging device

The Directive introduces requirements to ensure that consumers or end-users are not obliged to buy a new charger when purchasing a new mobile phone or similar radio equipment.

Economic operators should ensure that information on whether or not a charging device is included with the radio equipment is displayed in graphic form using a user-friendly and **easily accessible pictogram**, when such radio equipment is made available to consumers and other end-users.

Harmonised fast-charging technology

The Directive ensures that devices that ensure fast charging will now have the same communication protocol for charging. This will help to ensure that the charging speed is the same regardless of the compatible charger used with an appliance.

Better informed consumers

In order for buyers to make an informed decision on whether or not to purchase a new charger with their new product, dedicated **labels** should inform consumers about the charging characteristics of new devices so that they can more easily check the compatibility of the chargers they own.

Safety instructions and information

Manufacturers should ensure that radio equipment is accompanied by instructions and safety information. The instructions should contain all the information necessary to use the radio equipment for its intended purpose.

The following information should also be included in the instructions in the case of radio equipment intentionally emitting radio waves: (a) the frequency band(s) in which the radio equipment operates; (b) the maximum radio-frequency power transmitted in the frequency band(s) in which the radio equipment operates.

Report

No later than four years after the date of entry into force of the Directive, the Commission should present a report on the impact of the possibility of acquiring radio equipment without any charging device and without cables, in particular with regard to consumer convenience, reduction of environmental waste, behavioural changes and the development of market practices.

This report should be accompanied, if appropriate, by a proposal to amend the Directive in order to introduce a **mandatory unbundling** of the sale of charging devices and cables from the sale of radio equipment.